

THE
EDMONTON DISTRICT

NORTHWESTERN CANADA

A DESCRIPTION OF ITS SOIL, CLIMATE, PRODUCTS, AGRICULTURAL
CAPABILITIES AND OTHER RESOURCES

(1st JANUARY, 1896)

(NOTE.—Diagrams shewing the vacant lands in any two or three townships the intending settler may wish to examine for the purpose of selecting a homestead will be furnished on personal or written application at the Dominion Lands Office at Edmonton).

Pam

971.239

E24c

1896

THE

EDMONTON DISTRICT

NORTHWESTERN CANADA

A DESCRIPTION OF ITS SOIL, CLIMATE, PRODUCTS, AGRICULTURAL
CAPABILITIES AND OTHER RESOURCES

(1st JANUARY, 1896)

(NOTE.—Diagrams shewing the vacant lands in any two or three townships the intending settler may wish to examine for the purpose of selecting a homestead will be furnished on personal or written application at the Dominion Lands Office at Edmonton).

13.4.5/9

8748

THE EDMONTON DISTRICT.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The Edmonton Land District comprises that part of the provisional district of Alberta in the North-west Territories of Canada, lying north of and including Township 50 and west of and including range 8 west of the 4th Initial Meridian, extending to the westward as far as the eastern boundary of the Province of British Columbia and north to the northern limit of the said district of Alberta.

The lands in the Edmonton district may be generally described as park like in character, containing mixed prairie and timber areas, and numerous lakes, rivers and creeks.

The soil is uniformly fertile, being a vegetable mould, intermixed with sand and clay, having a depth of from 9 to 36 inches; the sub-soil is commonly clay, sometimes part sand occurs; stone and gravel are seldom encountered.

The timber comprises poplar, spruce, jack pine, tamarac, balm of gilead and willow—poplar being the most abundant, and to be obtained everywhere in sizes suitable for buildings, fuel and fencing.

Vast areas of lignite coal exist, it is easily mined along the Saskatchewan River, and it is sold in the town of Edmonton at \$1.75 to \$2.50 per ton—and at 75 cts. to \$1.00 at the mine.

A large quantity of gold is taken annually from the Saskatchewan River by placer mining. The value of the gold worked in Edmonton during the present year (1895) is estimated at \$75,000. This industry affords employment during low water in April, May, part of June, September, October and part of November, to several hundreds of men who are able to earn at the work from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per day.

Water is very easily obtained from wells, and is of excellent quality, suitable for every domestic purpose.

Native hay is almost exclusively used for feeding purposes and is abundant. In the well settled parts of the districts hay lands have, to a large extent, fallen under individual control, but at points 20 to 30 miles distant from the town of Edmonton, where settlement is more sparse, plenty of hay is still to be cut on Government lands.

In the well settled localities farmers are now, to some extent, growing oats and other cereals which, cut green and cured, make excellent fodder.

Timothy is a sure and abundant crop if grown on land plentifully supplied with moisture.

The town of Edmonton is at the terminus of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway, 200 miles north of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It has at present a population of about 1,200, and promises to be a rapidly growing, prosperous place. It is situated upon the north bank of the Saskatchewan River.

Upon the south bank of the river opposite, is the settlement known as South Edmonton, which is also a growing place, containing a population of about 600. South Edmonton is at present the railway terminus. An Immigration Hall is kept open there (near the railway station) for the accommodation of the newly arrived immigrants.

An officer of the Government accompanies the train from Calgary to Edmonton on Monday and Thursday of each week, to give information and advice to travellers. The Dominion Lands Office for the district is in the town of Edmonton (north side).

The chief products of the district are furs, gold, cattle, sheep, swine, wheat, oats and barley.

The chief exports are furs, gold, flour, oatmeal, cattle, bacon, hams, and butter.

There is a roller flour mill with a capacity of 200 barrels a day, also a first class oatmeal mill and an elevator with a capacity of 40,000 bushels, a new and fully equipped saw mill, with a capacity of 20,000 ft. B.M. per day; also a creamery and brewery, all situated in South Edmonton.

In North Edmonton the Edmonton Pork Packing Company (recently established) is operating with a good plant and affords a market for all swine raised in the district. There are also 3 grain buyers, with warehouses aggregating a storage capacity of about 60,000 bushels, two breweries, one in active operation at present, an extensive combined saw and grist mill, a planing mill, and other manufactories.

Wheat, oats, barley and all roots give almost invariably a bountiful yield. They are very seldom affected by drouth; and the summer frosts, which occur in all newly opened countries, are rarely heavy enough here to do material damage.

In consequence however of the operation of freight rates it pays the farmer to devote his attention primarily to the production of beef and pork. Hogs are selling at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 cents per pound live weight, for local consumption and export. It is reckoned that it pays very much better to turn wheat and barley into pork than to ship the grain. At present prices 200 lbs. live pork are equivalent in value to, say 40 bushels of barley. Yet the freight to Montreal for example, would be, on the merchantable pork to be got from the 200 lbs. live weight, (say 112 lbs. dressed meat) \$1.12, and on the barley \$9.60. From which it is obvious that it pays best to turn the coarse grain into pork and beef. A last word as to cattle, sheep and hogs, and one that should be kept in mind: the better the breed the more profit.

SCHOOLS AND TAXES.

The law in force enables school districts to be formed on a very simple, inexpensive plan. As yet there are no ordinary municipal taxes, and the only charge upon the settler is for school purposes, and occasionally statute labour or fire prevention.

SCHOOLS.

The public schools of Edmonton and vicinity afford, in the imposing buildings which have been erected, evidence of the consideration and respect with which educational interests are regarded by the public at large. No expense or pains were spared in providing adequate accommodation for pupils and the best instructors.

This applies also to the school districts outside Edmonton

CHURCHES.

Nearly all of the principal denominations of the North American Continent are represented in the Edmonton district.

HOSPITAL.

In the town of Edmonton a hospital has been erected by the Order of Grey Nuns. It is a handsome stone and brick building, fully equipped, commodious, and designed on the most sanitary and scientific principles. It is a most important institution, and has cost in the neighbourhood of \$35,000. It is to be operated by the Reverend Sisters as a general hospital for the benefit of the entire community irrespective of class or creed.

BRICK MANUFACTURE.

There are two kilns, one in the town of Edmonton and one on the south side of the river. Both make an excellent brick, light red in colour,—sold at from \$6.50 to \$7 per thousand at the kiln.

FREE HOMESTEADS.

Every male over 18 years of age and every female who is the sole head of a family (being legally the custodian or guardian of a person or persons dependent upon her for support) is entitled to a free homestead of 160 acres on payment of an office fee of \$10.00. An additional fee of \$10.00 is charged if the land has been inspected and released from prior entry.

The even-numbered sections north of the Saskatchewan River are all open to homestead entry. South of the river sections 8 and 4 of 26 belong to the Hudson Bay Company.

The odd-numbered sections, excepting 11 and 19 (school lands) belong to the Canadian Pacific Railway or are reserved as railway lands. They may be purchased from the Railway Company at about \$3 per acre.

TIMBER.

A free permit is granted to every occupant of a homestead quarter section having no timber of his own, for 1,800 lineal feet building logs (not exceeding 12 inch at the butt end), 400 roof poles, 2,000 fence rails (poplar), 30 cords of dry wood and burnt or fallen timber of a diameter not exceeding 7 inches. The only charge is the office fee of 25 cents for each permit.

LUMBER SAW MILLS.

There are in the district of Edmonton five saw mills now in operation, having an annual output of about 2,000,000 feet B.M.

FISH AND GAME.

The lakes and rivers abound in fish, the most numerous and useful being the white fish, pickerel, pike, gold eye, etc.

The game comprises bear, deer, northern hare, partridges, prairie chickens, and wild fowl in great number and variety.

Common among the fur bearing animals are the musk rat, mink, martin, fox, coyote and skunk.

HAY.

Ten cents per ton is charged for hay on Crown lands required by settlers for their own use, and 50 cents for permit

THE NAMES OF A FEW REPRESENTATIVE SETTLERS IN THE EDMONTON DISTRICT :—

Name.	Homestead.	Post Office.
Alfred Beaudry.....	N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 24, 56, 26 W. 4 M.....	Morinville.
George Emerson.....	S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 36, 51, 1 W. 5 M.....	Stony Plain.
Michael Barrett.....	N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 2, 50, 25 W. 4 M.....	Leduc.
John Borwick.....	N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 14, 56, 19 W. 4 M.....	Edna.
John Crape.....	N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 16, 55, 21 W. 4 M.....	Fort Saskatchewan.
Wm. Walker.....	S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 4, 54, 22 W. 4 M.....	Clover Bar.
A. E. Steele.....	S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 9, 52, 17 W. 4 M.....	Beaver Lake.
W. R. Brereton.....	N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 14, 56, 16 W. 4 M.....	Pakan.
Vital Cousineau.....	S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 6, 56, 22 W. 4 M.....	Fort Saskatchewan.
Thos. G. Pearce.....	N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 32, 53, 22 W. 4 M.....	Agricola.
Rev. Andreas Lilge.....	S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 10, 56, 20 W. 4 M.....	Bruederheim.

EDMONTON MARKET PRICES.

(January, 1896.)

Deliveries of grain and hogs brisk. No. 1 wheat has been raised to 50cts. Feed wheat is from 25 cts. up. Oats 14 cts. to 17 cts. for feed; 18 cts. to 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts. for seed and milling. Barley 18 cts. to 20 cts. for feed. Live hogs 4 cts.; dressed hogs 5 cts. Poultry is still scarce; 8 cts. a pound is offered for chickens, and 12 cts. for turkeys. Farmers are asking 12 cts. to 15 cts. Butter is moving up a little and is now 20 cts. to 25 cts. for choice prints. Tub butter 15 cts. to 18 cts. Eggs are scarce and are worth 25 cts. to 30 cts. Several shipments of cattle have been made south by buyers and ranchers, and the price of beef has an upward tendency in consequence. It is now 4 cts. to 5 cts. by the carcass. Hay is plentiful at \$3 to \$4 a ton. Cordwood \$2.00 per cord and Coal \$1.75 to \$2.00 per ton.

EDMONTON RETAIL PRICES : GROCERIES.

Tea per lb., 30 cts. to 50 cts.
 Coffee per lb., 30 cts. to 50 cts.
 White sugar, $7\frac{1}{2}$ cts. (14 lbs. for \$1).
 Brown sugar, $6\frac{1}{4}$ cts. (16 lbs. for \$1).
 Oatmeal, 4 cts. to 5 cts.
 Flour, per sack, \$2 to \$2.60.
 Bacon, breakfast, 18 cts.
 Bacon, dry, salt, 12 cts.
 Hams, 16 cts.
 Lard, 40 cts. per 3 lb. tin.
 Evaporated apples, $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts.
 " apricots, 20 cts.
 Syrup, 80 cts. per gal. pail.
 Coarse salt, per bag, 90 cts. (50 lb. sack).
 Fine salt, \$1 (50 lb. sack).
 Apples, dried, 10 cts.
 Currants, 12 cts.
 Raisins, Valencia, 12 cts.
 " Sultana, 9 cts.
 " table layers, 5 cts.
 Tinned Vegetables—
 Corn, pease, tomatoes and baked beans, 7 tins for \$1.
 Candied peel (mixed) 4 lbs. for \$1.
 Jam, assorted, 7 lb. pail for \$1.
 Rice, Vatna, 14 lbs. for \$1.
 " Java, 13 lbs. for \$1.
 Soap, 1 lb. bars, 4 for \$1.
 Baking powder, 1 lb. tin, 4 for \$1.
 Starch, corn, 9 lbs. for \$1.

DRY GOODS.

Factory cotton, 6 cts. to $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts. per yd.
 Cottonades, 18 cts. to 30 cts. per yd.
 Flannel, 18 cts. to 45 cts. per yd.
 Flannelette, 10 cts. to 20 cts. per yd.
 Strong tweed, 35 cts. to \$1 per yd.
 Wool socks, 15 cts. to 50 cts. per pair
 Tweed suits, men's size, \$6 to \$18.
 " boys " \$2.50 to \$8.
 Blankets, per pair, \$2.50 to \$10.
 Strong boots, men's size, \$1.25 to \$3.
 " boys " 80 cts. to \$2.50.
 " children, 45 cts. to \$1.50.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Breaking plough.....	\$ 20 00
Stubble plough.....	20 00
Brush breaking.....	28 00
(3 section) iron harrow.....	15 00
Wooden harrow.....	18 00
(4 section) iron harrow.....	18 00
Disc harrow.....	30 00
Wagon.....	75 00
Press drill.....	90 00 to \$100 00
Mower.....	55 00 to 65 00
Rake.....	28 00 to 30 00
Binder.....	155 00 to 170 00
Buckboard.....	35 00 to 60 00
Jumper.....	8 00 to 12 00

Cash prices.

HARDWARE.

Spades and shovels, 75 cts. to \$1.25.
 Saws, cross cut, 75 cts. to \$4.
 Saws, rip, 50 cts. to \$4.
 Saws, bucksaw, 65 cts. to \$1.
 Hammers, 65 cts. to \$1.25.
 Chisels, 40 cts. to 75 cts.
 Brace and bits, \$1.
 Plane, Jack, \$1.
 Plane, smoothing, 75 cts.
 Augers, 40 cts. to \$1.25.
 Axes, 75 cts. to \$1.50.
 Nails, wire, per 100 lbs., \$5.50 to \$6.
 Nails, wrought, per 100 lbs., \$4.70 to \$5.50.
 Nails, cut, per 100 lbs., \$5.50 to \$6.
 Coal oil, per gallon 50 to 60 cts.
 Linseed oil, raw and boiled, \$1.
 White lead, best brands, \$2 to \$2.50 per 25 lbs. can
 Cooking stove, \$23 to \$26.50, (complete).
 Box stove, \$4.50 to \$13.
 Stove pipes, per length, 15cts each.

LUMBER.

Lumber, from \$8 to \$25 a thousand

The following affidavit is required of settlers bringing the
from any foreign Country :

13. 4.

SETTLERS' EFFECTS.

FREE.

Port of.....189

Report 1

Entry *N*

Imported by *per*

from

Marks and Numbers.	No. of Packages.	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS.	QUANTITY.

I, _____, do hereby solemnly make oath and say, that all the Goods and Articles hereinbefore mentioned are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, entitled to Free Entry as Settlers' Effects, under the tariff of duties of Customs now in force, and that all of them have been owned and in actual use by myself for at least six months before removal to Canada; and that any and all musical instruments, domestic sewing machines, live stock, carts and other vehicles and agricultural implements named or included in this bill of entry have been owned and in actual use by myself for at least one year before such removal; and that none of the goods or articles shown in this entry have been imported as merchandise or for use in any manufacturing establishment, or for sale, and that I intend becoming a permanent settler within the Dominion of Canada.

Sworn to before me, this.

day of 189

Collector.

The following form of affidavit, in addition to the settler's oath, shall be made by intending settlers when importing live stock into Manitoba or the North-west Territories, free of duty under the said Act.

I, do solemnly swear that I am now moving into Manitoba (or the North-west Territories) with the intention of becoming a settler therein, and that the "Live Stock" enumerated and described in the entry hereunto attached, is intended for my own use on the farm which I am about to occupy (or cultivate) and not for sale or speculative purposes, nor for the use of any other person or persons whomsoever.

Sworn before me, this:

day of _____ 189

Collector.

NOTE.—Item 707 of the Tariff reads as follows:—Settlers' Effects, viz.:—Wearing apparel, household furniture, professional books, implements and tools of trade, occupation or employment, which the settler has had in actual use for at least six months before removal to Canada, musical instruments, domestic sewing machines, live stock, carts and other vehicles used in agricultural implements in use by the settler for at least one year before his removal to Canada, and other articles, including machinery, imported for use in any manufacturing establishment, or for sale: provided that any dutiable article entered as settlers' effects may not be so entered unless brought with the settler on his first arrival, and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without payment of duty, until after two years actual use in Canada; provided also, that under regulations made by the Minister of Customs, live stock when imported into Manitoba or the North-west Territories by intending settlers, shall be free until otherwise ordered by the Governor in Council.

arding Live Stock for Manitoba and the North-west under the "Settlers' effects" clause of the Tariff.

acres of lands in Manitoba or the North-west Territory the following stock, viz. :—

ght in (1 to each 10 acres)	16	allowed.
ht in (")	16	"
ht in (1 to each acre)	160	"
ght in (")	160	"
are brought in together	16	"
are brought in together	160	"

heep and swine are brought in together, the same proportions reserved. According to the quantity of land taken up, the admitted, on the above basis, will vary in different cases.

et the cases of intending settlers arriving at the frontier with and not having selected their homestead or other holding, it is ally the number of animals above mentioned for a homestead of 160 permitted to pass beyond the boundary, free of duty, with each intend-

ettler brings with him more than that number of stock and states his in-aking up sufficient land to justify the free entry of such greater number, pass a regular entry for duty for all the stock in excess of the number ble to a homestead. But so soon as he lodges with the collector at port of try documentary evidence showing that he has taken up such greater quantity land, such evidence will immediately be forwarded to the Customs Department with refund claim paper, on receipt of which the duty so paid will be refunded.

CATTLE QUARANTINE.

Neat-cattle are detained 90 days at the border in quarantine, but if brought in between the 1st of April and 1st October, the Canadian Government takes full charge of them, feeds and herds them and relieves the settler of all trouble and expense incident to their detention.

CHEAP RAILROAD RATES FOR SETTLERS.

A settler from a country other than Canada, intending to take up and settle on Farm Land in the Canadian North-west, in order to secure the lowest transportation rates, should obtain a certificate from a Canadian North-west Land Settlement Agent, purchase a ticket to the nearest point on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and on arrival there present his certificate, in exchange for which will be issued, for himself and any members of his family accompanying him, as enumerated on certificate, tickets to destination in the Canadian North-West, at a rate of *one cent per mile*. (This rate is quoted from all points except Vancouver, Huntingdon and Revelstoke, B.C., from which places the rate is *two cents per mile*.)

Should the settler, after acquiring land, desire to return for his family, he will be accorded a similar rate returning.

Information as to special reduced rates on settlers' effects in carloads, or less than carloads, will be given on application to the Settlement Agent, or any Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, or to the Freight and Passenger Agent in Winnipeg, Man., or Vancouver, B.C.

WESTERN CANADA

FREE FARMS FOR MILLIONS

200,000,000

ACRES WHEAT AND GRAZING LANDS FOR
SETTLEMENT IN MANITOBA AND THE
CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

Deep soil, well watered, wooded, and the richest in the world; easily reached by railways. Wheat: Average, 30 bushels to the acre, with fair farming. The Great Fertile Belt: Red River Valley, Saskatchewan Valley, Peace River Valley and the Great Fertile Plains. Vast areas, suitable for grains and the grass largest (yet unoccupied) in the world. Vast mineral riches: Gold, silver, iron, copper, salt, petroleum, etc.; etc. Immense Coal Fields. Illimitable supply of cheap fuel.

RAILWAY FROM OCEAN TO OCEAN.—Route: Including Canadian Pacific Railway, the Grand Trunk Railway, and the Intercolonial Railway; making continuous steel-rail connection from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean through the Great Fertile Belt of North America and the magnificent beautiful scenery of the North of Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains.

NEW ROUTE FROM ENGLAND TO ASIA, wholly through British Territory, and shortest line through Canada to China, Japan, Australia and the East. Always sure and always open.

The Canadian Government gives **FREE FARMS** of 160 ACRES to every adult of 18 years, and to every female who is head of a family, on condition of living on it; offering independence for life to everyone with little means, but with sufficient energy to settle. Climate healthiest in the world.

Further and full information, in pamphlets and maps, given free on application by letter addressed to

THE SECRETARY,

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OTTAWA, CANADA
(Marked "Immigration Branch.")

Or to

THE COMMISSIONER OF DOMINION LANDS,

Winnipeg, Manitoba

For information relating particularly to the Edmonton District, write to

THE DOMINION LANDS AGENT

Edmonton,